

ADA Provides Guidance On Dental Emergency, Nonemergency Care

The [ADA News](#) (3/18, Solana) reports, “The ADA provided its members and their patients detailed guidance on March 18 on what to consider dental emergencies and nonemergency dental care as part of an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease, COVID-19, and alleviate the burden on hospital and emergency departments.” The move follows an ADA [recommendation](#) that dentists nationwide postpone elective procedures to help “mitigate the spread of COVID-19.” Dental emergencies “are potentially life threatening and require immediate treatment to stop ongoing tissue bleeding [or to] alleviate severe pain or infection,” according to the ADA. As part of the emergency guidance, the ADA also added urgent dental care which “focuses on the management of conditions that require immediate attention to relieve severe pain and/or risk of infection and to alleviate the burden on hospital emergency departments.” The ADA News offers examples of emergency and urgent dental care treatments, noting “the guidance may change as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses,” according to the ADA. “Dentists should use their professional judgment in determining a patient’s need for urgent or emergency care.”

White House Officials Ask Health Care Providers To Delay Elective Dental, Medical Procedures

[HealthLeaders Media](#) (3/18, Roth) reports that with the coronavirus gaining momentum, the Trump administration is asking hospitals and other health care providers to delay elective medical and dental procedures. At a midday briefing on March 18, “Vice President Mike Pence said the action was needed to preserve medical supplies and resources for the fight against COVID-19.”

[NBC News](#) (3/18) aired the White House Coronavirus Task Force’s press briefing on the guidance. During the briefing, CMS Administrator Seema Verma thanked the American Dental Association and the American College of Surgeons, stating both organizations “took a proactive approach and already posted these recommendations.”

[The Hill](#) (3/18, Weixel) reports Verma said, “We believe that these recommendations will help surgeons, patients and hospitals prioritize what is essential, while leaving the ultimate decision in the hands of state and local health officials and those clinicians who have direct responsibility to their patients.”